



Filozofski
fakultet
Sveučilišta u
Zagrebu



THE LOBOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL & BIOARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT, CROATIA

Course ID: ARCH 365AR

June 16 - July 13, 2024

Academic Credits: 8 Semester Credit Units

FIELD SCHOOL DIRECTOR(S)

Dr. Krešimir Filipec, Chief of Department of Medieval Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb (kfilipec@ffzg.hr)

Dr. Jana Škrgulja, Assistant, Department of Medieval Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb (jana.skrgulja@gmail.com)

Dr. Petra Nikšić, Assistant, Department of Medieval Archaeology, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb (pniksic@ffzg.hr)

Dr. Zdravka Hincak, Chief of Department of Methodology and Archaeometry, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb



OVERVIEW

The site of Lobar in northwestern Croatia has been continuously excavated since 1998. Lobar was a focal point for its broader environs during two periods: 1) in Late Antiquity (5th century AD) when Lobar was an important political and ecclesiastical center, most likely formed as a consequence of the collapse of Roman provincial urbanism; and 2) in the Carolingian age (early 9th century AD) when Lobar was one of the centers of the Frankish province of Lower Pannonia (*Pannonia inferior*), with all the usual features of this new, early feudal age: fortified settlement, residential buildings, and churches. All available historical sources and archaeological materials are considered in an attempt to answer what made Lobar such an important location during these two distinctive periods. In the early 12th century, new political centers were established due to political developments such as the expansion of Hungary into southwestern Pannonia. Many of these new centers have remained in function until today, while the old centers that were rooted in different traditions disappeared or lost their importance. At that time the town of *Siscia*, which had a long trajectory from antiquity until the early Middle Ages and experienced a revival following the Carolingian conquest of Pannonia, gave way to the town of Zagreb as a new center.

From the very beginnings, the Lobar site has been associated with female cults. Based on sculpture fragments, it is believed that a Roman temple dedicated to Diana once stood there. Later, churches related to the Marian cult were built on top. A cemetery stretches around the church and across the entire site, and up to the outer fortification wall. After several years in which the research has focused on the church architecture, it is now being shifted to the cemetery. Through survey, excavations, the project is trying to answer the following questions:

- Was Lobar an important military center or merely a settlement associated with a religious sanctuary?
- Were some of the churches in operation at the same time?
- What was to relationship between the local clergy and the local inhabitants?
- What can be deduced from the burials about the population that lived in Lobar and surroundings?
- What can be said about the population according to archaeological and bioarcheological ratio? Who remained and who left?

The field school will allow students to acquire knowledge on the history of northwestern Croatia and the Lobar site itself, especially during the Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages. Students will approach these questions from the study of human bones, starting from determining the burial areas, excavating and cleaning skeletons. Students will further get familiar with the cultural heritage of Lobar (Lobar - Early Medieval Center of Power and Terra nullius - on the border and beyond the border from the 8th to the 12th century) and its environs while also visiting the most important archaeological sites in northwestern (on the Croatia eastern Adriatic - optionally), the capital of Zagreb, and some of the natural attractions of Croatia.

ACADEMIC CREDIT UNITS & TRANSCRIPTS

Credit Units: Attending students will be awarded 8 semester credit units (equivalent to 12 quarter credit units) through our academic partner, Connecticut College. Connecticut College is a private, highly ranked liberal arts institution with a deep commitment to undergraduate education. Students will receive a letter grade for attending this field school (see grading assessment and matrix). This field school provides a minimum of 160 direct instructional hours. Students are encouraged to discuss the transferability of credit units with faculty and registrars at their home institution prior to attending this field school.

Transcripts: An official copy of transcripts will be mailed to the permanent address listed by students on their online application. One more transcript may be sent to the student's home institution at no cost. Additional transcripts may be ordered at any time through the [National Student Clearinghouse](#).

PREREQUISITES

None. This is hands-on, experiential learning and students will study on-site how to conduct archaeological research. Archaeology involves physical work and exposure to the elements and thus requires a measure of understanding that this will not be the typical university learning environment. You will have to work outdoors and will get sweaty, dirty and tired. Students are required to come equipped with sufficient excitement and adequate understanding that archaeology requires real, hard work, in the sun, rain and wind, hot and cold weather, on your feet, and with your trowel. The work requires patience, discipline, team work and attention to detail. It is vital that all students respect the IFR Student Code of Conduct, local culture, and local rules and laws.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- To introduce students to the history of all periods present at the site of Lobar and the archaeology and culture of the northwestern parts of Croatia.
- To introduce students to contemporary standards of work in field archaeology.
- To introduce students to health and safety requirements at an archaeological site.
- To introduce basic field survey (dividing into groups, collecting finds from the ground, etc.)
- To prepare students to perform excavation tasks: the use of tools; digging techniques; sieving, etc.
- To introduce students to the basics of bioarcheology, archaeology and anthropology: excavation of skeletons; drawing; measuring; cleaning; determining sex, age, diet, traumas, etc.
- To prepare students to perform field documentation tasks: the use of measuring and documentation tools and devices; creating written documentation (context sheets, field notebooks, finds labels, etc.); photographic documentation; drawing of stratigraphy, burials, skeletons, architectural structures, contexts; the use of a total station, etc.
- To introduce students to the basics of find processing procedures: cleaning, selecting and arranging archaeological finds; the organization of finds in storage, etc.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will be able to perform basic excavation tasks and will know how to use archaeological tools, digging techniques, sieving and protective positions during excavation. They will know how to perform basic field documentation tasks such as filling in context sheets, keeping a field notebook and labeling finds. They will learn the principles of archaeological photography and field drawing. They will be able to use measuring and leveling devices and process finds. They will learn how to identify and excavate human burials, and how to clean, pack, and prepare the bones for laboratory analysis. Students will be instructed in how to sex and age a human skeleton, and how to recognize the most common traumas.

ASSESSMENT

% of Grade	Activity
35 %	Excavation (use of tools, drawing, measuring, photography, etc.)
25 %	Archaeological or bioarchaeological workshop and lecture
25 %	Activity and examines
15 %	Final project

COURSE SCHEDULE

All IFR field schools begin with a safety orientation. This orientation addresses local and program protocols concerning student behavior, appropriate attire, local practices and sensibilities that may be unfamiliar, potential fauna and flora hazards, IFR harassment and discrimination policies, and the student Code of Conduct.

The Field School schedule consists of four Units:

Unit 1: Theoretical module consisting of three components:

- Lectures and instructions on field methods and practices;
- Lectures on different aspects of the Late Antiquity/Early Medieval archaeology (4th–11th century) in Croatia;
- Lectures on Archaeology and Bioarcheology

Unit 2: Practicum consisting of two components:

- Archaeological fieldwork including basic practices of excavation and archaeological records;
- Bioarcheological fieldwork (in the crypt and conference hall, working with ceramics and bones including basic practices of excavation and documentation such as sexing, aging, identifying traumas, washing etc.);
- Workshops dedicated to archaeological and anthropological finds processing and documentation.

Unit 3: Trips to the Prehistoric, Classical, Medieval and Late Medieval sites, accompanied by presentations and behind-the-scenes visits to the archaeological sites and museums.

Unit 4: Homework: assignments will be allotted to all students. These will consist of editing and processing field documentation (field notebook, context sheets, drawings, photos), and preparing presentations and reports.

Date	Morning	Afternoon
Day 1 June 16 Sun.	Arrival and check in (Zagreb)	
Day 2 June 17 Mon.	Zagreb / Orientation panel Lecture: Health and safety at the site	Sightseeing and orientation walk in Zagreb Museums in Zagreb Traditional Croatian welcome dinner

Day 3 June 18 Tue.	Zagreb / Posture in archaeology	Introductory lecture (Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences - Zagreb): Croatian culture and customs Workshop: Use of Tools and Working Techniques
Day 4 June 19 Wed.	Labor / Field work Lecture: Introducing the site and surroundings	Starting the archaeological dig, setting up the grid Workshop: Posture, alignment and handling of archaeological tools
Day 5 June 20 Thur.	Labor Field work Lecture: Lecture: Basic Field Methods and Practices for Excavation and Documentation	Field work Workshop: Ergonomics in archaeology – exercise at the site
Day 6 June 21 Fri.	Labor Field work Lecture: Archaeological measuring instruments (Total Station)	Field work Workshop: Sieving, Documentation, Excavation
Day 7 June 22 Sat.	Labor Field work Lecture: Importance of the team work and Cooperation	Field work Workshop: Sieving, Documentation, Excavation
Day 8 June 23 Sun.	Day off / Free time	
Day 9 June 24 Mon.	Labor Field work Sieving, Documentation, Excavation Lecture: Students project - introduction	Field work Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop
Day 10 June 25 Tue.	Labor Field work Lecture: Total Station, Sieving, Documentation, Excavation	Field work Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop
Day 11 June 26 Wed.	Labor Field work Total Station, Sieving, Documentation, Excavation Lecture: Humans Remains excavation	Field work Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop
Day 12 June 27 Thur.	Field trip: Medieval Zagreb or Field trip: Krapina Neanderthal Museum, City of Krapina (lunch packet)	
Day 13 June 28 Fri.	Labor Field work Excavation	Field work: Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop
Day 14 June 29 Sat.	Field trip: Medieval Zagreb Field trip: Zagreb - Medvedgrad castle (lunch packet)	

Day 15 June 30 Sun.	Day off / Free time	
Day 16 July 1 Mon.	Labor / Field work Lecture: Forensic Anthropology Total Station, Sieving, Documentation, Excavation	Field work Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop Workshop: introduction of archaeological finds Workshop: correct and incorrect position of archaeologists and team members during archaeological excavation
Day 17 July 2 Tue.	Labor/ Field work Excavation, Total Station, Sieving, Documentation Lecture: Students project – follow up	Field work Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop Workshop: cleaning and sorting of archaeological finds
Day 18 July 3 Wed.	Labor / Field work Excavation, Total Station, Sieving, Documentation Lecture: Croatian archaeological monuments in the early Middle Ages	Field work Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop Workshop: cleaning and sorting of archaeological finds
Day 19 July 4 Thur.	Labor / Field work Excavation, Total Station, Sieving, Documentation Lecture: Introduction to burial customs in northern Croatia	Field work Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop Workshop: cleaning and sorting of archaeological finds Field trip: Zagorje county
Day 20 July 5 Fri.	Labor / Field work Excavation, total station, sieving, documentation Lecture: Antique and late antique pottery	Field work Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop Workshop: cleaning and sorting of archaeological finds
Day 21 July 6 Sat.	Labor / Field work Excavation, total station, sieving, documentation	Field work: Archaeological and bioarcheological workshop Workshop: cleaning and sorting of archaeological finds
Day 22 July 7 Sun.	Day off / Free time	
Day 23 July 8 Mon.	Labor / Field work Excavation, total station, sieving, documentation	Field work Workshop: cleaning and sorting of archaeological finds
Day 24 July 9 Tue.	Labor / Field work Excavation, total station, sieving, documentation	Field work Workshop: cleaning and sorting of archaeological finds
Day 25 July 10 Wed.	Labor / Field work Excavation, total station, sieving, documentation	Field work Workshop: cleaning and sorting of archaeological finds
Day 26 July 11 Thur.	Labor / Field work Student presentations of project	Student presentations of final works Final discussion
Day 27 July 12 Fri.	Picnic in Zagreb - Maksimir park	Free time

Day 28 July 13 Sat.	Departure
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Course structure may be subject of change upon directors' discretion.

Typical work day at the site

6:00-7:00 am Breakfast

7:00-8:00 am Transfer to the site

8:00am-12:00pm Fieldwork, lectures or workshop

12:00-12:30 pm Lunch

12:30-4:00 pm Fieldwork, lectures or workshops

4:30-5:45 pm Transfer to Accommodation

6:00-6:45 pm Dinner

Homework/free time

In case of rainy days, lectures, excursions and other activities will be held in the work area or in Zagreb.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

The required minimum attendance for the successful completion of the field school is 90% of the course hours. Any significant delay or early departure from an activity will be calculated as an absence from the activity. An acceptable number of absences for a medical or other personal reason will not be considered if the student catches up on the field school study plan through additional readings, homework, or tutorials with program staff members.

REQUIRED READINGS

PDF files of all mandatory readings will be provided to enrolled students. Students are encouraged to download and/or print readings prior to traveling. Course participants are expected to be prepared to engage the discussions led by facilitators, all of whom will be looking for compelling evidence that students have read and thought about the assigned readings prior to the scheduled day on which they are first discussed.

As noted above, the Lobar Project conscientiously combines experiential learning with formal instruction, including lectures and readings. Students will have access to front load resources written by the faculty and translated to English. Readings will be provided to the students before the excavation, so they could follow the lectures and understand the wider context of Lobar.

A. Dugonjić and A. Rapan Papeša, *Avars and Slavs - Two sides of a belt strap end : Avars on the north and south of the khaganate*. Arheološki muzej, Collectanea Archaeologica 5, Zagreb 2022.

K. Filipec and M. Bunčić, *Lobar – An Early Medieval Centre of Power, 20 Years of Archaeological Excavations*, Zagreb 2021.

K. Filipec and M. Filipec, *Introduction in Rescue Archaeological Excavation. Ergonomics in Archaeology*, Zagreb 2022.

H. Wolfram, *Germans, Langobards, History of the Goths*, Berkley, Los Angeles and London: University of California Press, 1988

W. Pohl, *The Avars: A Steppe Empire in Central Europe, 567–822*, Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press, 2018

B. Migotti, *The Archaeology of Roman Southern Pannonia, BAR International Series 2393, 2012*
Late Antiquity and Early Middle Ages in today's Croatia

T. D. White, P. A. Folkens, *Bioarcheology, The Human Bone Annual*, 2005

PART II: TRAVEL, SAFETY & LOGISTICS

NOTICE OF INHERENT RISK

Traveling and conducting field research can involve risk. The IFR engages in intensive review of each field school location and programming prior to approval. Once a program is accepted, the IFR reviews each program annually to make sure it still complies with all our standards and policies, including those pertaining to student safety. Participants should also take every reasonable step to reduce risk while on IFR programs, including following the safety advice and guidelines of your program director, being alert to your surroundings and conditions, letting someone know where you will be at all times, and assessing your personal security.

The IFR does not provide trip or travel cancellation insurance. We strongly encourage participants to consider purchasing this insurance, as unexpected events may prevent your participation or cause the program to be canceled. Insurance is a relatively small cost to protect your educational investment in an IFR program. When comparing trip cancellation insurance policies, make sure the policy covers the cost of both airfare and tuition.

We do our best to follow a schedule of activities, methods training, and programming as outlined in this syllabus. However, this schedule can be easily disrupted by unforeseen circumstances, including weather, revisions by local permitting agencies, or conditions onsite. While this schedule represents the intentions of the program, adaptability is an intrinsic part of all field research, and necessary alterations to the schedule may happen at any time.

If you have any medical concerns, please consult with your doctor. For all other concerns, please consult with the program director and staff.

PROGRAM SPECIFIC FIELD CONDITIONS

Achaeological fieldwork involves physical work outdoors. You should be aware that conditions in the field are different from those you experience in your home. Zagreb and Lobar belongs to the climatic region of the continental climate, with temperatures ranging from 77 to 86 °F. Mornings are a little bit colder. You are required to bring suitable clothing (sleeveless T-shirt with long-sleeve work shirt on top, long pants, thick socks and hiking boots or some similar shoes). Always wear a hat and sunscreen. Rainy and chilly days in this season are rare but not unheard of. One of the most important things is to be patient and learn how to share your private and working area with other people.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

Citizens of the US, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Australia and New Zealand do not need visa to visit Croatia for up to 90 days. All nationals who are holders of valid Schengen documents, as well as national visas and residence permits of Bulgaria, Cyprus, and Romania do not require an additional (Croatian) visa for Croatia. Citizens of other countries are asked to check the embassy website page at their home country for specific visa requirements. The Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at Zagreb

University can send an official invitation letter that, if needed, can be used at the relevant embassy to secure a visa to the program.

STUDENT HEALTH

An IFR field school is designed to provide safe, positive, and constructive experiences for participating communities, students, and researchers. We are committed to protocols and practices that support the health and well-being of all involved in our field school projects, including the members of the community in which these projects take place.

We recommend that students adopt best-practices for arriving in a good state of health to protect themselves and their peers' readiness to set about the work of the field school. A thriving field camp environment is a constant exchange of energy, patience, effort, respect, and service. Arriving healthy is every student's first act of service — their first opportunity to behave in a way that respects the safety and wellness of one another.

IFR programs follow the health requirements and guidelines of local health authorities. You may also wish to consult recommendations from the US Centers for Disease Control at: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list>.

TRAVEL (TO AND DURING THE PROGRAM)

Natural disasters, political changes, weather conditions and various other factors may force the cancellation or alteration of a field school. IFR recommends you only purchase airline tickets that are fully refundable and consider travel insurance in case your program or travel plans must change for any reason. General information for your program is below, but keep in mind we will discuss any updated travel information and regulations during your required program orientation, which could affect your travel plans.

Students should purchase airline tickets to the Dr. Franjo Tuđman Airport in Zagreb. On June 16th 2024, students will arrive at the Dr. Franjo Tuđman Airport in Zagreb, from where they will contact Dr. Jana Skrgulja and be escorted directly to their accommodation in Zagreb. The exact time of the meeting with all the students will be provided after students confirm their flight bookings.

If you missed your connection or your flight is delayed, please call, text or email Dr. Jana Skrgulja (jana.skrgulja@gmail.com; jskrgulj@ffzg.hr) or Dr. Petra Niksic (pniksic@ffzg.hr). A local emergency cell phone number will be provided to all enrolled students.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Accommodation will consist of 2 to 3 students per room, with shared bathrooms. Linens, blankets, pillows, and pillow cases are provided.

During the first three and the last two days, our students will be accommodated in Zagreb. During the rest of our program, our students will be accommodated in Lobar or surroundings).

Breakfast will be served in the Accommodation.

A local restaurant provides lunch at the site. Lunch will be chosen from the daily menu. The restaurant is able to accommodate vegetarians, vegans, and students with various dietary food intolerances. The students with specific dietary needs should report their preferences in the field school application.

Dinner will be served in the Accommodation or at the site.

The Accommodation will provide students and staff with laundry facilities.

EQUIPMENT LIST

Students will be provided with all the tools and equipment necessary for the excavation and other field research activities.

All students should bring the following:

Required

- clothes for both hot and cold weather, including:
 - o short sleeve or sleeveless t-shirt
 - o long-sleeve work shirt to layer
 - o long pants
- thick socks
- hiking boots or shoes with good tread and some ankle protection
- light jacket
- light rain jacket
- wide-brimmed hat
- sunscreen
- towels
- sundries